

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 vaccination – Simplified illustrated version

How the vaccine works



- When someone gets the COVID-19 vaccine, their body gets ready to fight back against the virus.
- A reaction happens that **blocks the virus**. Most COVID-19 vaccines stop the virus from getting into the person's body.
- Vaccination is your body's way to get ready to fight back against the germs it might meet.



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Safety

- COVID-19 vaccines have to meet the same quality and safety standards as any other vaccine used in Canada.



- Before being approved by Health Canada, a vaccine had to have been studied by tens of thousands of people.



- Each report of an unusual side effect is examined by experts so they can identify any safety problems.

Supply for Canada and Québec

- Vaccines from more than one company are used for COVID-19 vaccinations (*AstraZeneca; Johnson & Johnson; Medicago; Moderna; Novavax; Pfizer; SanofiPasteur/GlaxoSmithKline*).

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Vaccination in Québec

- In Québec, COVID-19 vaccines are **free**.
- It is available to all people aged 5 and over.



Effectiveness

The studies show that the vaccines approved by Health Canada are good at **helping the body be immune to COVID-19**, even in older people.



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Side effects



- You might have small or moderate reactions after vaccination. These side effects might last a few days.
- You might have side effects such as **pain where you got the injection, tiredness, fever and chills.**



- Serious **side effects** after vaccination are **very rare.**

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Advice for after vaccination



- Wait 15 minutes before leaving after being vaccinated. If you have an allergic reaction, it will happen a few minutes after vaccination.



- **If you feel any signs of a reaction, tell the person who gave you the vaccine right away.** That person can treat you right there.



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Advice for at home

- If the area of the injection is **red, painful or swollen**, apply a **cold wet compress**.



- If you need to, **take medication to reduce the fever or pain**.

When to see a doctor



See a doctor if:

- You have serious or unusual side effects.
- The side effects get worse instead of getting better.
- The side effects last more than 48 hours.

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Other protection measures

- Just because you have been vaccinated does not mean that health measures do not apply anymore.
- Keep on physical distancing, wearing a mask and washing your hands until you are informed that you don't have to anymore.

